



VISITOR GUIDE 2025/2026

THE NORTHERN SCHOOL OF ART
1 CHURCH STREET
HARTLEPOOL, DURHAM
TS24 7DR

DEGREES LEVEL CAMPUS
UNDERGRADUATE & POSTGRADUATE
COURSES
[@northernart](#)



THE CONTENTS

WELCOME

We can't wait to welcome you and help you discover the perfect place to develop your creative potential. Come and see what makes The Northern School of Art the ideal place for aspiring artists and designers.

Nestled in the vibrant and affordable coastal town of Hartlepool, our institution is dedicated to fostering creativity in a supportive and close-knit environment. With state-of-the-art facilities, industry-relevant degrees, and an inclusive community, your creative journey starts here.

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OUR VISITOR EVENTS

VISITOR EVENTS

We offer a variety of visitor events to help you explore what The Northern School of Art has to offer. When attending an event, you'll receive a full schedule and guidance on making the most of your visit.

OPEN DAYS:

A chance to tour our campus, meet tutors and learn about student life. Our upcoming open days are:

2025	2026
Saturday 20th September	Saturday 17th January
Wednesday 22nd October	Saturday 21st March
Saturday 15th November	Saturday 30th May
Saturday 6th December	

VIRTUAL TOURS:

Can't make it to an Open day event? No worries — explore our facilities anytime with our 360° virtual tours available on our website.

APPLICANT DAYS:

For those who have applied and want a deeper insight into their chosen course.

INTERVIEW DAYS:

Support for applicants with portfolio reviews and audition preparation.

DEGREE SHOWS & WORKSHOPS:

Experience our students' work and participate in hands-on activities.

FOLLOW OUR SOCIALS

To get updates about our Visitor Events
[@thenorthernart](#)



Hartlepool is a hidden gem for students looking for an affordable, friendly place to study. With a strong sense of community, plenty of local culture, and a creative arts scene, there's more to Hartlepool than meets the eye. Our students consistently praise the welcoming environment, saying, "There's a strong sense of community." Whether you're exploring local art galleries, enjoying the coastal scenery, or taking part in social events organised by our Students' Union, there's always something to do.

EXPLORE HARTLEPOOL

FOOD & DRINK

The Marina is a buzzing hub for waterside dining, cafés, and drinks with a view. For a laid-back night out, students love the quirky bars and pubs around Church Street and the Marina, which come alive with live music, themed nights and a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. If you're after great food, there's everything from indie coffee shops and global street food to popular pizza joints and cosy bistros.

HERITAGE & CULTURE

Hartlepool is a coastal town with a proud maritime history and plenty to explore. The National Museum of the Royal Navy and HMS Trincomalee bring naval heritage to life, while the Heugh Battery Museum offers a fascinating glimpse into wartime defences. Though steeped in history, Hartlepool also embraces creativity and modern culture as seen at The Hartlepool Art Gallery. Located in a stunning Victorian church, the gallery hosts a rotating lineup of contemporary exhibitions—perfect for sparking some fresh ideas.

NATURE & WILDLIFE

Seaton Carew Beach is the go-to for sunny days, fish and chips and beach games. For downtime, Summerhill Country Park and Ward Jackson Park offer green space to chill, skate or explore.

MUSIC & DANCE

For live music and creative hangouts, The Studio on Tower Street is a must. It's an intimate venue where local bands, poets, and performers gather, offering a genuine taste of Hartlepool's grassroots arts scene.



THE SOCIAL SCENE



STUDENT UNIONS FEATURED VENUES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

We collaborate with a range of local bars and venues to bring you exciting events throughout the year. One of our key partners is Vixen Bar, which we consider our external Student Union Bar. Vixen Bar hosts a variety of events, including fundraisers for student programs, games nights, Karaoke and other great events. Additionally, we work closely with Wallis & Co at Hartlepool Marina, home to our popular weekly quiz nights, The Owl, which recently hosted a fantastic band night, and Blue Valentine, the venue for our Winter Ball, are also key spots in our event calendar.

North East Screen, the region's screen agency, regularly hosts free Screen Social events – a brilliant opportunity for emerging talent and students to connect with industry professionals, share ideas and hear about upcoming opportunities.

CREATIVE COMMUNITY

The school boasts a vibrant creative community, further enriched by networking groups like:

- Ladies Wine & Design Hartlepool
- Join the Dots
- In the Frame (Hartlepool Film Club)

Hartlepool and the wider region have lots to offer in terms of culture and events, here are just a few we engage with:

- Hartlepool Pride
- Wintertide Festival
- Middlesbrough Art Week
- The Festival of Thrift
- Thought Bubble Comic Art Festival
- Tees Valley International Film Festival.





SCAN HERE

Visit Tees Valley Website

Tees Valley is a region made up of five distinct boroughs – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees - located in the North East of England. It boasts a vibrant nightlife, chilled out coastal escapes and is fast becoming a national hotbed of culture – which you can enjoy without breaking the bank.

Top venues across the region – including Middlesbrough Town Hall, Stockton's Globe, Darlington Hippodrome – welcome the biggest names in music, comedy and theatre, so if you're an avid gig-goer, there's always something to look forward to.

Kite Festival, Redcar

Image Credit - Visit Tees Valley

VISIT TEES VALLEY

MIDDLESBROUGH

Middlesbrough's Baker and Bedford Streets play host to trendy independent bars, cafes and restaurants, with Yarm, Norton and Guisborough high streets following suit. For later on, it has much-loved nightspots such as Empire and the Dickens Inn, plus cocktail culture at Nuthatch. The mighty Boro is also home to the Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA) and each year is taken over for Middlesbrough Art Week, boasting a full programme of artists of all kinds.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES

Stockton's the centre of our impressive music scene with the Georgian Theatre, ARC, KU, Vault Hidden Bar and others welcoming the best local, regional and national acts. Plus, every year, the Stockton Calling festival hits the town, with popular acts like Self Esteem and Sam Fender previously joining the best in new music.

REDCAR AND CLEVELAND

If you're looking for something more relaxing, Redcar Beach and Saltburn are beautiful escapes for a beachfront stroll or as a starting point to take on part of the majestic Cleveland Way walking route. But if you want some action, hire a board and hit Saltburn beach for one of the best surf experiences in the country, perfect for all experience levels.

DARLINGTON

Darlington's market square hosts major events like Darlington By The Sea, Darlington Pride and Steampunk Weekend. Top restaurants like Babul's Curry and Cocktails, plus haunts such as Orb Micropub and House of Hop are also must-visits.

No matter where you visit, Tees Valley is a place where anything is possible.



Larry's Lanes, Hartlepool
Image Credit - Visit Tees Valley



ARC, Stockton
Image Credit - Visit Tees Valley



Level X, Middlesbrough
Image Credit - Visit Tees Valley



Play, Middlesbrough
Image Credit - Visit Tees Valley

EXPLORE BEYOND

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EASY CULTURAL DAY TRIPS FROM HARTLEPOOL

While Tees Valley has more than enough to keep you inspired, some of the North's most iconic cities – each bursting with history, creativity and character – are just a short train ride away from Hartlepool Railway Station.

DURHAM – 30 MINS BY CAR

Famous for its breathtaking cathedral and medieval castle (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), Durham is a stunning mix of old and new. Its cobbled streets are dotted with independent bookshops, galleries and cafés, making it a great spot for sketching, photography, or just soaking in some gothic inspiration. The Oriental Museum and Durham Art Gallery offer exhibitions that span global cultures and contemporary art.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE – 50 MINS BY TRAIN

A dynamic city full of creative energy, Newcastle is home to the iconic BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art and the Laing Art Gallery, both offering thought-provoking exhibitions by international artists. The Ouseburn Valley is a hub for artists' studios, zines, indie music and street art – perfect for design students looking for grassroots creative culture. With thriving nightlife, street food markets and historic quayside views, there's always something happening here.

YORK – 1 HR 15 MINS BY TRAIN

A city where ancient meets cutting-edge. York's narrow lanes, city walls and gothic architecture make it a visual treasure trove, while places like York Art Gallery, The York Design Festival, and the Centre for Ceramic Art provide modern-day creative fuel. It's a fantastic place to explore visual storytelling, illustration and historical design in context.

All three cities are easily accessible by direct train from Hartlepool, making them ideal for day trips, research visits or spontaneous weekend adventures. Whether you're into fine art, heritage, street culture or contemporary design, these cultural hotspots offer inspiration on your doorstep.

PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT

PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT - VISITOR GUIDE

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Seaton Carew Beach, Hartlepool
Image Credit - Visit Tees Valley

PLAN YOUR STAY

If you're coming to check out The Northern School of Art's Hartlepool campus, you might want to make a mini adventure of it! Hartlepool is a town with a lot of heart and a creative pulse, perfect for young artists looking for inspiration. Whether you're here for an open day or just a casual visit, there are some great options to make your stay comfortable and memorable.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is easy to sort, with budget-friendly hotels like the Premier Inn, just a short walk from campus. If you're looking for something a bit more unique, there are quirky Airbnbs dotted around town, offering a more local and artistic experience. Hartlepool Marina is another great spot to stay—you'll find modern apartments with views over the water and easy access to cafes and restaurants.

TRAVEL

Travel is also a breeze! Hartlepool has a well-connected train station just a five-minute stroll from campus, making it easy to get here from major cities like Newcastle, Sunderland, or Middlesbrough. Once you're in town, everything is close enough to explore on foot, or you can hop on local buses for a bit more range.

TRAVELLING BY CAR:

The Northern School of Art's Hartlepool campus is easily accessible by car. Hartlepool is well connected to the A19, which links to major routes from the north and south. If you're driving from the north, take the A19 and follow signs to Hartlepool. From the south, the A1(M) and A19 provide convenient access. Parking is available nearby, including both public parking areas and on-campus options.

TRAVELLING BY RAIL:

Hartlepool train station is around a 2-minute walk from the school, providing convenient access to the campus by train. Regular services are available from Newcastle, Middlesbrough, and Sunderland, as well as other major cities across the country including London King's Cross.

TRAVELLING BY COACH OR BUS:

Hartlepool is served by several national coach companies, with frequent services from many locations across the UK. Local buses also provide convenient links to our campus, with stops nearby that make it easy to get to the school from different parts of Hartlepool and the surrounding area.

TRAVELLING BY AIR:

For those traveling from further afield, Newcastle International Airport and Teesside International Airport are the closest options. Both airports are well connected by public transport. From Newcastle International Airport, you can take a train directly to Hartlepool, while Teesside International Airport is just a short taxi or bus ride to the nearest train station, which provides direct services to Hartlepool.



THE NORTHERN STUDIOS

THE
NORTHERN
FILM & TV
STUDIOS



 **HARTLEPOOL**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

  **TEES**
VALLEY

A HUB FOR FILM & TELEVISION PRODUCTION

The Northern Studios is an exciting subsidiary of The Northern School of Art, created in partnership with Hartlepool Borough Council and funded by The Tees Valley Mayor's Office and Combined Authority.

Located next to the School Campus, The Northern Studios is the largest TV and film complex in the North East. This unique facility sits in the heart of a region rich with diverse location opportunities—stunning coastlines, rural landscapes, vibrant urban environments, industrial backdrops, and heritage sites are all within a 45-minute drive, making it an ideal base for productions looking to capture the varied beauty of the North-East.

The Studios have played host to a range of high-profile productions, including feature films like Jackdaw, Sky Sports' The Greatest Show on Earth campaign, and an ITV six-part drama series. The wider region has also welcomed numerous television productions, such as ITV's Vera and The Red King, CBBC's The Dumping Ground, and BBC's comedy series Smoggie Queens. Feature film blockbusters including Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny, Transformers, Harry Potter, 1917, Avengers: Endgame, and Danny Boyle's 28 Years Later have also utilised the rich array of local locations.

The Northern Studios is more than just a production space—it's a vibrant part of the creative community. We host workshops and networking events for emerging talent, working with key partners in the screen industry to nurture the next generation of filmmakers and creators.

Additionally, through our Northern Talent Pool initiative, we provide valuable work experience opportunities for BA (Hons) and MA students from The Northern School of Art, ensuring our students gain hands-on experience in a professional setting.

HARTLEPOOL SCREEN INDUSTRIES

THE NORTHERN STUDIOS - VISITOR GUIDE

A PLACE TO CREATE. A PLACE TO STAY.

From the classroom to the soundstage, Hartlepool is evolving into a destination for filmmakers, storytellers, and innovators. As we grow, so do your opportunities.

PRODUCTION VILLAGE

Hartlepool is on the cusp of something extraordinary. Building on the success of The Northern Studios—located right next door to our campus—plans are underway to develop the Hartlepool Screen Industries Production Village, a multi-million-pound expansion that will transform the area into one of the UK's leading hubs for film and television production.

A CREATIVE POWERHOUSE IN THE MAKING

Spearheaded by Hartlepool Borough Council with support from the Tees Valley Combined Authority, the new Production Village will turn the Lynn Street and Whitby Street area into a vibrant cluster of studios, workshops, and support spaces designed specifically for the screen industries. Think flexible creative workspaces, state-of-the-art soundproofed studios, and facilities capable of hosting high-end drama productions and live audience TV shows.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

As a student of The Northern School of Art, you'll be studying right at the heart of this thriving creative ecosystem. Our students already benefit from hands-on placements at The Northern Studios—and the new development will supercharge these opportunities. Whether your passion lies in set design, directing, VFX, costume, or post-production, you'll be surrounded by industry-standard facilities and real-world experiences that prepare you for the fast-evolving world of screen media.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Backed by over £30 million in investment, the Production Village is expected to create over 130 new jobs, attract international productions, and bring more than 2,600 additional visitors to the area each year. It's not just about media—it's about regeneration, community, and opportunity.



OUR CREATIVE COMMUNITY CAMPUS

At our Hartlepool campus, creativity thrives in every corner. Our facilities are designed to inspire and support you, including specialist workshops, state-of-the-art studios, and industry-standard equipment. You'll find spaces dedicated to a variety of disciplines, from textiles and fashion to photography and fine art, encouraging you to collaborate and explore new avenues in your creative practice.

THE NORTHERN SCHOOL OF ART
1 CHURCH STREET
HARTLEPOOL, DURHAM
TS24 7DR

THE NORTHERN SCHOOL OF ART
CHURCH SQUARE
HARTLEPOOL, DURHAM
TS24 7EX



**"HAVING A
CREATIVE
SPACE TO
WORK IN
WHENEVER
WE NEED
IT, IS
AMAZING."**

LEAH KELLY -

BA (Hons) Fine Art







STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

At The Northern School of Art, we understand that where you live plays a big role in your higher education experience. That's why we offer high-quality, affordable student accommodation that supports your independence, wellbeing, and creativity.

OUR HALLS OF RESIDENCE

We have two excellent halls of residence to choose from: Crown Halls & Titan House. Both are designed with student life in mind and just a short walk from campus.

WHY CHOOSE OUR ACCOMMODATION?

- Spacious, modern rooms
- Free WiFi throughout
- Secure access and CCTV
- Laundry included
- Close to shops, cafés, gyms, and transport
- Competitive rent—just 60% of the average maintenance loan, compared to 75% UK-wide
- Average annual rent: £6,020, much lower than most UK cities

PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Prefer something different? We maintain strong links with trusted local landlords across Hartlepool, providing more flexible options to suit your needs and budget. Popular choices include Avondene and Hillcarter, both offering great locations and excellent standards of student housing.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Telephone: 01642 856122

Email: hestudent.services@northernart.ac.uk



OUR HALLS OF RESIDENCE



CROWN HALLS

Live in the heart of the action

Located right on campus, Crown Halls puts you steps away from everything you need: studios, the library, Art Café, and the Students' Union. Ideal for students who want the ultimate convenience and social atmosphere.

- Choose between en-suite rooms or rooms with shared bathrooms
- Communal kitchens, laundry facilities, and secure storage on each floor
- Outdoor space for relaxing and summer events
- Secure parking available
- Weekly rent:

£155.25 for en-suite | **£145** for shared bathroom

Crown Halls offers a sociable, supportive environment perfect for first-year students and anyone who wants to stay closely connected to campus life.

TITAN HOUSE


Comfortable, self-contained flats just 10 minutes from campus.

Titan House offers a quieter setting with the benefits of independent living. It's ideal if you're looking for a bit more space and a flat-style setup.

- Self-contained flats shared by small groups of students
- Options:
 - Standard room – **£127.71/week**
 - Medium room – **£134.87/week**
 - Large room – **£143.26/week**
- Each flat has a shared kitchen and living area, plus private bedrooms
- Spacious communal lounges and laundry on every floor
- Just a short walk to campus and town centre amenities

Titan House is great for those who value a balance of independence and community.





The Student Advice and Wellbeing Team are here to support you throughout the whole of your journey with the School. That starts now!

If you have any queries related to disability, student finance, accommodation, mental health and wellbeing, or any other aspect of support please don't hesitate to get in touch.

SUPPORT AND WELL-BEING

HEALTH CONDITIONS & DISABILITY

If you have a health condition or disability and need support at interview or whilst studying with us, please get in touch to discuss your support requirements. We can also talk you through the process of applying for Disabled Student Allowance to ensure that the support you need is in place before you start. Support at Higher Education is different to support at College as, in the majority of cases, it will be provided by an external provider - but don't worry, our Advisers can help you navigate this process.

We will also work with the lecturing staff to ensure that any reasonable adjustments are in place to support your study.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

The pastoral team are there to support all aspects of healthy living – physical and mental. The School has a Student Counselling Service for anyone requiring more in-depth emotional support and all the Advisers are trained in Mental Health First Aid. The team run a variety of different activities to support positive mental health and wellbeing. The School also works with Health Assured to provide students with access to a wellbeing app and online portal, full of useful advice and information and a 24/7 telephone support line for anyone needing support out of hours. If you would like more information on mental health and wellbeing, please contact us or visit the School website.

CARE LEAVERS / ESTRANGED STUDENTS

Care leavers and estranged students will be allocated an adviser to support them throughout the duration of their studies. The adviser will ensure that the student has access to any support required and advise on financial and accommodation issues, liaising with external organisations as required.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Telephone: 01642 856122

Email: hestudent.services@northernart.ac.uk



OUR STEP-BY-STEP APPLICATION GUIDE

THE INITIAL ENQUIRY

Research our institution via our website, prospectus and open days.

SUBMIT APPLICATION

Complete UCAS application form.

ATTEND PORTFOLIO REVIEW/AUDITION

Attend a portfolio review/audition and tour facilities either virtually or in-person. Additional details about portfolio reviews and the acting audition process on our website.

AWAIT DECISION

Receive notification of our decision (typically within 48-hours)

ACCEPT OFFER

If successful, you have the opportunity to firm or insure with us.

PREPARE FOR ENROLMENT

We will keep in touch with you at key points throughout the year and invite you to join our social media groups to start building relationships with staff and other prospective students.

START YOUR CREATIVE JOURNEY AT NSOA

Find out about Fresher's events and Welcome Week.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Telephone: 01642 288 888

Email: studentrecruitment@northernart.ac.uk



THINKING OF APPLYING TO US?

BA (HONS) PROGRAMMES

STAGE & SCREEN

ACTING FOR STAGE & SCREEN

COSTUME INTERPRETATION WITH DESIGN

FILM, TV & THEATRE PRODUCTION

MODELMAKING & PROPS

SET DESIGN FOR STAGE & SCREEN

VISUAL EFFECTS*

VISUAL ARTS

ANIMATION

DESIGN & DIGITAL MARKETING

FASHION

FINE ART

GAMES ART*

GRAPHIC DESIGN

ILLUSTRATION FOR COMMERCIAL APPLICATION

PHOTOGRAPHY

TEXTILES & SURFACE DESIGN

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

MASTER OF ARTS

DIRECTING & THEATRE MAKING

ARTS PRACTICE

DESIGN PRACTICE

ARTS, CULTURE & CURATION (PART-TIME)*

ABOUT US

The Northern School of Art fosters a vibrant, collaborative environment where students from different disciplines come together to inspire and learn from one another. Our degrees are designed to encourage creative partnerships, whether through cross-course projects, industry-led challenges, or group exhibitions. This collaborative approach not only enhances students' skills but also builds a strong sense of community, helping them grow as artists and prepare for the interconnected world of the creative industries.

COURSE & ADMISSION ENQUIRIES?

Telephone: 01642 288 888

Email: studentrecruitment@northernart.ac.uk

FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: @thenorthernart

TikTok: @thenorthernart

X: @thenorthernart

Facebook: The Northern School of Art

